

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested.

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lucas (US 4,652,903).

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended so as to further distinguish the present invention, as recited therein, from the reference. Further, new claims 11 and 12, which depend from claim 1, have been added.

The above-mentioned rejection is submitted to be inapplicable to the amended claims for the following reasons.

Claim 1 is patentable over Lucas, since claim 1 recites a signal transmitter including, in part, a signal multiplexing part operable to multiplex a time-base-compressed audio signal and a video signal by employing a control signal, and output a video/audio multiplexed signal and the control signal to a signal receiver, wherein the control signal indicates a position of the time-base-compressed audio signal. Lucas fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 1.

Lucas discloses an encoder including a multiplexer 118. The multiplexer 118 receives a luminance signal from a luminance store 110a, a chrominance signal from a chrominance store 110b, a compressed audio signal from a sampling circuit 116 and a VBI signal, and combines the four signals by selecting them at appropriate times for inclusion in a Multiplexed Analog Components (MAC) video line. (See column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 38 and Figure 4).

In the rejection, the multiplexer 118 is relied upon as corresponding to the claimed signal multiplexing part. As discussed above, the multiplexer 118 combines the four signals, including the compressed audio signal, by “selecting them at the appropriate time.” In other words, the multiplexer 118 selects between the four signals based on a set timing, and, therefore, in order for the compressed audio signal to be de-multiplexed properly, the timing at both the transmitting side and the receiving side must not deviate from each other. On the other hand, the signal multiplexing part recited in claim 1 outputs the video/audio multiplexed signal and the control signal, which indicates the position of the time-base-compressed audio signal to the signal receiver. Therefore, the signal receiver is able use the control signal to locate the position of the time-base-compressed audio signal. It is clear that the multiplexer 118 does not output a

control signal that indicates the position of the compressed audio signal. As a result, Lucas fails to disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in claim 1.

Claim 2 is patentable over the Lucas, since claim 2 recites a signal transmitter including, in part, a control signal generator operable to receive a first multiplexing control signal and generate a second multiplexing control signal by delaying a certain clock of a first multiplexing control signal thereby providing a no-signal period between a time-base compressed audio signal and a video signal; and a signal multiplexing part operable to multiplex the time-base-compressed audio signal and the video signal by employing the second multiplexing control signal, and output a video/audio multiplexed signal via a data line. Lucas fails to disclose or suggest these features of claim 2.

Lucas also discloses clock circuitry for generating clock signals of various frequencies that are used by the encoder and decoder. The clock circuitry includes a master clock 200 and a number of dividers 202, 204, 206, 208 and 210 that divide the clock signal from the master clock 200 to attain the various clock signals. The clock signal output from the divider 202 (i.e., the MAC sampling signal) has a frequency of $1365 f_H$ and is used by the multiplexer 118 when performing the multiplexing. (See column 6, lines 38-55 and Figure 5).

In the rejection, the multiplexer 118 is relied upon as corresponding to the claimed signal multiplexing part and the clock circuitry is relied upon as corresponding to the control signal generator. More specifically, the rejection indicates that the selection between the four signals by the multiplexer 118 based on the MAC sampling signal from the clock circuitry corresponds to the claimed multiplexing of the time-base-compressed audio signal and the video signal by employing the second multiplexed control signal. However, it is noted that the control signal generator generates the second multiplexing control signal by delaying a certain clock of the first multiplexing control signal thereby providing a no-signal period between the time-base-compressed audio signal and the video signal. Lucas does not disclose or suggest that the clock circuitry in Lucas is such that the divider 202 delays the clock signal output by the master clock 200 thereby providing a no-signal period between the compressed audio signal and the video signals. By providing the no-signal period as recited in claim 2, it is possible to distinguish a switching position of the time-base-compressed audio signal and the video signal. As a result, Lucas fails to disclose or suggest the present invention as recited in claim 2.

In addition to being patentable over Lucas for the reasons set forth above in support of claim 1, claim 12 recites that the signal multiplexing part is operable to multiplex the time-base-compressed audio signal and the video signal when the control signal is a certain value. On the other hand, as discussed above, the multiplexer 118 selects between the four signals based on a set timing. As a result, Lucas also fails to disclose or suggest this feature of claim 12.

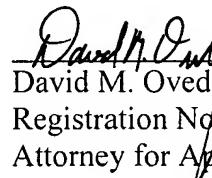
Because of the above-mentioned distinctions, it is believed clear that claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 are allowable over the reference relied upon in the rejection. Furthermore, it is submitted that the distinctions are such that a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would not have been motivated to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the present invention as recited in claims 1, 2, 11 and 12. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 1, 2, 11 and 12 are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Hidekazu SUZUKI et al.

By:



David M. Ovedovitz
Registration No. 45,336
Attorney for Applicants

DMO/jmj
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
October 12, 2006